



National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Michigan Statistical Office  
Michigan Department of Agriculture

# Michigan Crop-Weather



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## Scattered Precipitation

Four days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 2, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Growers in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula faced a variety of conditions, including snow and unusually high winds. However, much of the lower half of the State did receive at least some much needed precipitation. Several counties in the south central district had progressed to drought conditions prior to the rain. Farmers in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula reported continued cold and wet conditions that hampered fieldwork progress. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.18 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 1.80 inches in the central Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in three northern districts to 1 degree above normal in the southeast Lower Peninsula. Commenting on the variety of conditions over the past week, a producer in the northeast said, "We had four seasons all in one week: cold, snow, rain, wind and eighty degree temperatures." A farmer in the central district faced similar conditions. "We are having a tough time getting the fieldwork done. We get just enough rain to stop us, but we are still short on moisture."

## Field Crops

Field work was put on hold in some areas due to cold, wet weather. Windy conditions made the soil very dry in many counties early in the week. Northern counties received a lot of rain in the past two weeks, and little field work has been done due to the rains. Southern counties had not received as much rain and field activities continued. **Wheat** still looked good and was growing slowly. Most **oats** were in and nearly half the crop emerged. **Sugarbeets** were all planted but awaiting warmer temperatures. The crop looked good except where high winds cut off the seedling plants. Some replanting may be necessary. **Corn** planting was slowed by rain but improved soil moisture levels were helpful. **Soybean** plantings were ahead of normal.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/02/04

| Stratum | Very short     | Short          | Adequate       | Surplus        |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|         | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Topsoil | 8              | 20             | 57             | 15             |
| Subsoil | 10             | 25             | 60             | 5              |

Crop condition for week ending 05/02/04

| Crop         | Very poor      | Poor           | Fair           | Good           | Excellent      |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|              | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Pasture      | 4              | 8              | 36             | 45             | 7              |
| Winter Wheat | 0              | 3              | 23             | 55             | 19             |

## Fruit

Temperatures fluctuated throughout the State last week, with lows below freezing at the end of the week. Rainfall over the weekend helped soil moisture conditions. Strong winds in the southwest were blowing sand across worked fields, causing some damage to blooming fruit crops. Growers were applying fungicides and herbicides to fruit. Insect activity has been light due to cool temperatures. Fruit tree planting continued last week.

There was some loss due to frost in the southwest, as temperatures reached the mid-20's over the evening of May 2. **Grapes** were most negatively impacted by the freeze. **Apples** were in early pink or beginning to bloom in the southwest, were in early pink in the southeast, and in tight cluster in the west central. In the area around Grand Rapids, earliest to mid season apple varieties were starting to show signs of king bloom. Most apple varieties were in open cluster to early pink stage. Several apple scab infections were observed throughout the apple growing regions. Steady light rainfall increased spore levels. In the southeast, pruning on apples was completed. In the west central, **tart cherries** were showing tight, green cluster. **Sweet cherries** ranged from first whiter bud to first bloom in the west central, and were in bloom in the Grand Rapids area. **Peaches** were at early pink in the west central, and approaching full bloom near Grand Rapids. Pruning on peaches and other stone fruit was underway in the southeast.

## Vegetables

Planting continued for a wide variety of vegetable crops across the State. Growers in several districts noted that high winds over the week may have caused scattered wind damage. In the west central, **carrots** continued to be planted and processing **spinach** was mostly emerged. Stands looked good. **Cabbage** planting continued in the southeast. Growers continued to mow the rye cover crop in **asparagus** fields. Harvest began in several districts. Producers reported two to three pickings for the week in the southwest.

Crop progress for week ending 05/02/04

| Crop                 | This week      | Last week      | Last year      | 5-year average |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                      | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Asparagus, harvested | 11             | NA             | NA             | NA             |
| Barley, planted      | 61             | 25             | 25             | 49             |
| Barley, emerged      | 31             | 8              | 1              | 29             |
| Corn, planted        | 42             | 15             | 18             | 15             |
| Corn, emerged        | 2              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| Oats, planted        | 84             | 63             | 55             | 65             |
| Oats, emerged        | 45             | 20             | 11             | 37             |
| Potatoes, planted    | 20             | 14             | NA             | NA             |
| Soybeans, planted    | 12             | 3              | 3              | 4              |

**Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/02/04 <sup>1</sup>**

| Station              | Temperature |         |                       | Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup> |      |        | Precipitation |                |                 |               |               |           |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|---|------|--------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
|                      | Maximum     | Minimum | Departure from normal | 2004  | 2003 | Normal | This week     | Last two weeks | Last four weeks | Since April 1 | Normal        |           |
|                      |             |         |                       |   |      |        |               |                |                 |               | Since April 1 | For month |
| Ironwood             | 81          | 23      |                       | 79  | 94   |        | 0.18          | 0.82           | 2.47            | 2.52          |               |           |
| Marquette            | 69          | 15      |                       | 56  | 91   |        | 0.37          | 1.08           | 2.72            | 2.91          |               |           |
| Stephenson           | 74          | 28      |                       | 142   | 148  |        | 0.31          | 1.52           | 2.63            | 2.63          |               |           |
| <b>Western UP</b>    | 81          | 15      | -3                    | 79  | 98   | 86     | 0.18          | 0.80           | 2.21            | 2.27          | 2.58          | 3.37      |
| Cornell              | 66          | 22      |                       | 69  | 84   |        | 0.40          | 1.19           | 1.98            | 1.98          |               |           |
| Sault St Marie       | 67          | 26      |                       | 25  | 54   |        | 0.59          | 1.43           | 1.92            | 1.92          |               |           |
| <b>Eastern UP</b>    | 67          | 22      | -3                    | 42  | 60   | 44     | 0.44          | 1.07           | 1.50            | 1.57          | 2.69          | 3.01      |
| Beulah               | 74          | 28      |                       | 114   | 124  |        | 0.40          | 1.89           | 3.49            | 3.68          |               |           |
| Lake City            | 73          | 26      |                       | 120   | 128  |        | 0.68          | 2.14           | 4.20            | 4.30          |               |           |
| Old Mission          | 75          | 28      |                       | 100   | 100  |        | 0.22          | 1.55           | 2.46            | 2.48          |               |           |
| Pellston             | 76          | 23      |                       | 98  | 111  |        | 0.06          | 1.25           | 1.78            | 1.78          |               |           |
| <b>Northwest</b>     | 76          | 23      | -3                    | 102   | 109  | 108    | 0.36          | 1.65           | 2.71            | 2.77          | 2.92          | 2.61      |
| Alpena               | 80          | 25      |                       | 97  | 117  |        | 1.14          | 1.92           | 2.44            | 2.44          |               |           |
| Houghton Lake        | 74          | 26      |                       | 137   | 139  |        | 0.68          | 1.45           | 3.38            | 3.40          |               |           |
| Rogers City          | 77          | 27      |                       | 113   | 96   |        | 0.81          | 1.91           | 2.92            | 2.93          |               |           |
| <b>Northeast</b>     | 80          | 23      | -1                    | 121   | 124  | 98     | 0.87          | 1.91           | 3.09            | 3.10          | 2.79          | 2.76      |
| Fremont              | 75          | 30      |                       | 172   | 171  |        | 0.21          | 1.12           | 1.85            | 1.87          |               |           |
| Hart                 | 74          | 30      |                       | 174   | 135  |        | 0.33          | 1.52           | 2.23            | 2.29          |               |           |
| Muskegon             | 74          | 32      |                       | 160   | 154  |        | 0.16          | 0.95           | 1.83            | 1.84          |               |           |
| <b>West Central</b>  | 75          | 30      | NA                    | 169   | 152  | 132    | 0.23          | 1.20           | 1.97            | 2.00          | 3.36          | 2.67      |
| Alma                 | 77          | 30      |                       | 198   | 166  |        | 2.25          | 3.03           | 3.71            | 3.76          |               |           |
| Big Rapids           | 77          | 27      |                       | 173   | 156  |        | 0.75          | 1.01           | 2.08            | 2.11          |               |           |
| <b>Central</b>       | 77          | 27      | 0                     | 189   | 160  | 147    | 1.80          | 2.52           | 3.30            | 3.34          | 3.35          | 2.79      |
| Bad Axe              | 78          | 28      |                       | 150   | 93   |        | 1.63          | 3.01           | 4.65            | 4.67          |               |           |
| Pigeon               | 76          | 29      |                       | 138   | 107  |        | 1.49          | 2.36           | 3.79            | 3.83          |               |           |
| Saginaw              | 78          | 30      |                       | 177   | 138  |        | 1.22          | 2.07           | 2.47            | 2.52          |               |           |
| Standish             | 77          | 28      |                       | 166   | 134  |        | 1.15          | 1.89           | 3.67            | 3.67          |               |           |
| <b>East Central</b>  | 79          | 28      | -2                    | 153   | 123  | 140    | 1.36          | 2.29           | 3.40            | 3.43          | 2.76          | 2.63      |
| Fennville            | 76          | 31      |                       | 173   | 173  |        | 0.76          | 1.67           | 1.87            | 1.88          |               |           |
| Grand Rapids         | 78          | 31      |                       | 226   | 184  |        | 0.78          | 2.63           | 2.92            | 2.93          |               |           |
| Holland              | 77          | 32      |                       | 180   | 168  |        | 0.65          | 1.60           | 1.83            | 1.83          |               |           |
| South Bend, IN       | 79          | 34      |                       | 237   | 219  |        | 0.80          | 1.24           | 1.27            | 1.28          |               |           |
| Watervliet           | 78          | 34      |                       | 203   | 196  |        | 0.73          | 1.62           | 1.62            | 1.64          |               |           |
| <b>Southwest</b>     | 80          | 30      | -1                    | 204   | 200  | 167    | 0.72          | 1.59           | 1.83            | 1.85          | 3.59          | 3.01      |
| Belding              | 76          | 30      |                       | 189   | 209  |        | 0.48          | 1.65           | 2.34            | 2.34          |               |           |
| Coldwater            | 78          | 33      |                       | 198   | 187  |        | 1.28          | 1.48           | 1.56            | 1.58          |               |           |
| Lansing              | 78          | 31      |                       | 210   | 187  |        | 1.13          | 1.52           | 1.74            | 1.77          |               |           |
| <b>South Central</b> | 80          | 30      | 0                     | 207   | 202  | 168    | 1.02          | 1.52           | 1.78            | 1.79          | 3.32          | 2.92      |
| Detroit              | 81          | 29      |                       | 219   | 200  |        | 1.19          | 1.62           | 1.69            | 1.78          |               |           |
| Flint                | 80          | 30      |                       | 220   | 183  |        | 1.41          | 1.74           | 1.88            | 1.95          |               |           |
| Romeo                | 81          | 26      |                       | 199   | 161  |        | 1.10          | 2.34           | 2.48            | 2.50          |               |           |
| Tipton               | 80          | 25      |                       | 205   | 205  |        | 1.17          | 1.32           | 1.43            | 1.46          |               |           |
| Toledo, OH           | 80          | 26      |                       | 236   | 213  |        | 0.78          | 1.51           | 1.70            | 1.74          |               |           |
| <b>Southeast</b>     | 82          | 25      | 1                     | 207   | 196  | 155    | 1.25          | 1.80           | 1.93            | 2.00          | 3.33          | 2.85      |

<sup>1</sup> Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

<sup>2</sup> Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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